

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION PRESIDENT NIXON'S CHICAGO REMARKS

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT'S CHICAGO REMARKS REPORTED PROMINENTLY IN NEWSPAPERS AND ANALYZED IN MODERATELY CRITICAL TONE. RADIO/TV GAVE STORY LOW-KEY TREATMENT BUT USED PHRASE "HARSHEST EVER" TO DESCRIBE. END SUMMARY

2. SATURDAY TV NOTED THAT "POLEMICS BETWEEN U.S. AND EUROPE HAVE BECOME SHARPER, AND THAT "PRESIDENT HAS COMPLETELY REVERSED KISSINGER'S WORK THAT HAD SUCCEEDED IN SMOOTHING DISPUTE." SUNDAY HOWEVER, TV COMMENTATOR TELMON OBSERVED THAT "JOBERT REACTED WITH SURPRISING MODERATION TO WHAT SOME COMMENTATORS DEFINED AS THE PRESIDENT'S ULTIMATUM TO EUROPE. JOBERT SAID THAT DETERIORATION OF INTER-ATLANTIC RELATIONS WOULD DAMAGE ALL AND THAT ATLANTIC ALLIANCE HAS TWO PILLARS: U.S. AND EUROPE. IT IS EASIER TO WALK ON TWO LEGS THAN ON ONE, SAID FRENCH MINISTER."

3. UGO STILLE FROM NEW YORK, CORRIERE DELLA SERA ITALY'S LARGEST CIRCULATION PAPER, (SAT.): "NIXON GAVE W. EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS MOST EXPLICIT, HARDEST WARNING REMEMBERED IN TWENTY-FIVE-YEAR HISTORY OF ATLANTIC ALLIANCE...HIS HARD STATEMENTS CAUSED SURPRISE IN WASHINGTON WHERE USG WAS BELIEVED TO WANT TO SOFTEN IMPACT OF ITS POLEMICS WITH EUROPE AFTER KISSINGER'S HARSH

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REMARKS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHETHER NIXON WENT BEYOND

HIS REAL INTENTIONS, ALTHOUGH, ACCORDING TO AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES, THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS REFLECT SUBSTANTIALLY HIS OPINIONS AS EXPRESSED IN PERSONAL MESSAGE TO BRANDT."

4. ANOTHER PIECE, SAME PAPER (SUN.), BY VITTORIO BRUNELLI FROM BONN: "NOW NIXON TRIES COHESION OF EEC BY THREATENING WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM EUROPE. HE AIMS AT DEEPENING SPLIT BETWEEN GERMANS AND FRENCH. ACCORDING TO SOME US CIRCLES IN BONN, NIXON CANNOT RETURN FROM EUROPE WITH EMPTY HANDS WHEN HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MIGHT PROPOSE HIS RESIGNATION."

5. VITTORIO ZUCCONI FROM WASHINGTON, LA STAMPA (SAT.) UNDER HEAD: "CRISIS WITHIN ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. NIXON'S VIOLENT ATTACK AGAINST EUROPE." ZUCCONI WRITES: "PRESIDENT NIXON ENTERED INTO ATLANTIC POLEMIC PERSONALLY AND HEAVILY WITH UNPRECEDENT STATEMENTS... UNDOUBTEDLY, WASHINGTON'S OFFENSIVE AIMS AT BRINGING BACK EUROPE'S RESPECT FOR ATLANTIC DISCIPLINE. TODAY, TERMS OF PROBLEM ARE CLEARLY SHOWN: US READY TO WITHDRAW ITS STRATEGIC UMBRELLA FROM OLD CONTINENT IF EUROPEANS REFUSE TO ACCEPT US-USSR LEADERSHIP."

6. IN INSUGINED EDIT. LA STAMPA (SUN.), COMMENTS: "EUROPE CANNOT AFFORD A BREAK WITH AMERICA. HOWEVER, OPPOSITE ALSO TRUE: NOT EVEN POWERFUL AMERICA CAN REMAIN ISOLATED. UNTIL AMERICA GETS RID OF NIXON (PERHAPS BEFORE LONG) AND EUROPEAN GOVTS SHOW MORE DETERMINATION IN FORMULATING THEIR POLICIES, SOME EFFORTS ARE NEEDED TO POUR OIL ON TROUBLED WATERS AND TO BRING QUARREL BACK AROUND TO ITS SUBSTANCE. BASIC ISSUE IS HOW TO COORDINATE US FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC POLICIES WITH EUROPE WHEN INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES INVOLVED. MAIN THING IS TO SPEAK TO EACH OTHER, TO HAVE A DIALOGUE. IT SEEMS TO US THAT IT NECESSARY PUT QUESTION TO BOTH SIDES: TO WHOM IS /CRISIS/ ADVANTAGEOUS? TO NEITHER. CAN ONE HOPE THAT THOSE GOVTS WHICH ARE INVOLVED LESS DIRECTLY, LIKE ITALIAN AND BRITISH GOVT, WILL TAKE COURAGEOUS INITIATIVE TO LEAD PROTAGONISTS OF QUARREL TO REASON, DRAWING THEM BACK FROM VERGE OF DISASTER TOWARDS WHICH THEY ARE PUSHING THE WEST WITH SURPRISING BLINDNESS?"

7. VITTORIO ZUCCONI FROM WASHINGTON, SAME PAPER (SUN.): "NIXON UNCLASSIFIED

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SPEECH MAY BE 'OFFENSIVE AND SUPER-CRITICAL,' AS CHARGED IN EUROPEAN CAPITALS, 'INAPPROPRIATE,' AS WHISPERED IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, IT HAS MERIT OF HAVING CLEARED FIELD OF ANY OLD MISUNDERSTANDINGS."

8. LUCIO MANISCO FROM NEW YORK, IL MESSAGGERO (SAT). USUALLY CRITICAL OF U.S. POLICY UNDER HEAD: "TO FORCE EUROPE TO COOPERATE. NIXON THREATENS TO WITHDRAW TROOPS." MANISCO NOTES ON FRONT

PAGE: "IN POSTWAR PERIOD NONE OF NIXON'S PREDECESSORS HAD
EVER THREATENED TO CANCEL UNILATERALLY US MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS
IN FRAMEWORK OF NATO AND TO WITHDRAW US TROOPS FROM EUROPE...
NIXON HAS TRANSLATED KISSINGER'S HARD CRITICISM OF EUROPEANS
INTO REAL ULTIMATUM...HIS SPEECH HAS OFFICIALLY AND DELIBERATELY
PLACED AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY ON COLLISION COURSE WITH EUROPE."

9. FRONT PAGE UNSIGNED EDIT, SAME PAPER (SUN): "NIXON PRESENTED
ALLIED GOVERNMENTS WITH DILEMMA: TO ABANDON ANY COMPETITIVE.....
OR INDEPENDENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS US IN AREA OF TRADE, ENERGY
CRISIS AND NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER OR TO RISK WITHDRAWAL OF US
TROOPS FROM EUROPE...ONE CANNOT FALL TO NOTICE THAT WHAT

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